

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

Caption in Compliance with D.N.J. LBR 9004-1(b)

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In re:

BLOCKFI INC., *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

Chapter 11

Case No. 22-19361 (MBK)
(Jointly Administered)



Order Filed on February 7, 2023
by Clerk
U.S. Bankruptcy Court
District of New Jersey

**ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF
KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE
ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE**

The relief set forth on the following pages, numbered two (2) through eight (8), is hereby
ORDERED.

DATED: February 7, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael B. Kaplan".
Honorable Michael B. Kaplan
United States Bankruptcy Judge

(Page 2)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE

Upon consideration of the application (the “Application”)¹ of BlockFi Inc. and its debtor affiliates, as debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the “Debtors”), pursuant to section 327(a) of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”), Rules 2014 and 2016 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the “Bankruptcy Rules”), and Rules 2014-1 and 2016-1 of the Local Bankruptcy Rules for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of New Jersey (the “Local Rules”), for entry of an order authorizing the Debtors to employ and retain Kroll Restructuring Administration LLC (“Kroll”) so that it may perform services as administrative advisor (“Administrative Advisor”) effective nunc pro tunc to the Petition Date; and the Court having jurisdiction to decide the Application and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28. U.S.C. §§ 157(a)-(b) and 1334(b) and the Standing Order of Reference to the Bankruptcy Court Under Title 11 of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, dated September 18, 2012 (Simandle, C.J.); and consideration of the Application and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b); and venue being proper before this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and notice of the Application having been given as provided in the Application, and such notice having been adequate and appropriate under the circumstances; and it appearing that no other or further notice of the Application need be provided; and upon the Declaration of Benjamin J. Steele in

¹ Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

(Page 3)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

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support thereof; and the Court being satisfied that Kroll does not hold or represent any interest adverse to the Debtors, their estates, or their creditors, and is a disinterested person within the meaning of Sections 327 and 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, and that said employment would be in the best interest of the Debtors and their respective estates, and that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Application establish just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation and sufficient cause appearing therefor,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Application is **GRANTED** as set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized to retain Kroll as Administrative Advisor, effective as of the Petition Date, pursuant to section 327(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and under the terms of the Engagement Agreement attached to the Application as **Exhibit A**, as modified by this Order, and Kroll is authorized to perform the bankruptcy administration services described in the Application and set forth in the Engagement Agreement.
3. Kroll is authorized to take all actions necessary to comply with its duties as Administrative Advisor as described in the Application and set forth in the Engagement Agreement.
4. Kroll shall apply to the Court for allowance of compensation and reimbursement of expenses incurred after the Petition Date in its capacity as Administrative Advisor in accordance with the sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, the Local Rules,

(Page 4)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE

and any orders entered in these cases regarding professional compensation and reimbursement of expenses.

5. The Debtors shall indemnify Kroll under the terms of the Engagement Agreement, as modified pursuant to this Order.

- (i) Notwithstanding any provision of the Application and the Engagement Letter to the contrary, Kroll shall not be entitled to indemnification, exculpation, contribution, or reimbursement pursuant to the Engagement Agreement for any services, unless such services and the indemnification, exculpation, contribution, or reimbursement therefor are approved by the Court.
- (ii) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Application or the Engagement Agreement, the Debtors shall have no obligation to indemnify or exculpate Kroll, or provide contribution or reimbursement to Kroll, for any claim or expense that is either: (i) judicially determined (that determination having become final) to have arisen from Kroll's gross negligence, willful misconduct, bad faith, self-dealing or fraud to which the Debtors' have not consented; (ii) for a contractual dispute in which the Debtors allege the breach of Kroll's obligations to maintain the confidentiality of nonpublic information, unless the Court determines that indemnification, contribution, or reimbursement would not be permissible pursuant to *United Artists Theatre Co. v. Walton (In re United Artists Theatre Co.)*, 315 F.3d 217 (3d Cir. 2003); or (iii) settled without the Debtors' consent prior to a judicial determination as to Kroll's gross negligence, willful misconduct, bad faith, fraud or uncontested self-dealing, but determined by this Court, after notice and a hearing, to be a claim or expense for which Kroll should not receive indemnification, exculpation contribution, or reimbursement under the terms of the Engagement Agreement as modified by this Order.
- (iii) If, before the earlier of the entry of an order (i) confirming a chapter 11 plan in these chapter 11 cases (that order having become a final order no longer subject to appeal), or (ii) closing these chapter 11 cases, Kroll

(Page 5)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE

believes that it is entitled to the payment of any amounts by the Debtors on account of the Debtors' indemnification, exculpation, contribution, and/or reimbursement obligations under the Engagement Agreement (as modified by this Order), including the advancement of defense costs, Kroll must file an application therefor in this Court, and the Debtors may not pay any such amounts to Kroll before the entry of an order by this Court approving the payment. This subparagraph (iii) is intended only to specify the period of time under which the Court shall have jurisdiction over any request for fees and expenses for indemnification, exculpation, contribution, and/or reimbursement by Kroll, and is not a provision limiting the duration of the Debtors' obligation to indemnify, or make contributions or reimbursements to Kroll. All parties-in-interest shall retain the right to object to any demand by Kroll for indemnification, exculpation, contribution, or reimbursement.

6. The limitation of liability section in paragraph 10 of the Engagement Agreement is deemed to be of no force or effect with respect to the services to be provided pursuant to this Order.

7. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Engagement Agreement, including paragraph 6 thereof, by this Order the Court is not authorizing Kroll to establish accounts with financial institutions on behalf of the Debtors.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Engagement Agreement, the 1.5% late charge in paragraph 2(c) of the Engagement Agreement shall not be assessed during the pendency of these Chapter 11 Cases.

9. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Engagement Agreement, including paragraph 15 thereof, the Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over Kroll's engagement during the pendency of these chapter 11 cases and the Arbitration clause shall have no force or effect during the pendency of these Chapter 11 Cases.

(Page 6)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE

10. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Engagement Agreement, including paragraph 2(h) thereof, Kroll shall provide at least ten (10) business days' notice of any increases in its Rate Structure, subject to the parties-in-interest's right to object to any such increases including, but not limited to, the reasonableness standard provided in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, and the Court retains the right to review any rate increase pursuant to section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code.

11. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the Engagement Agreement, paragraph 3(b) of the Engagement Agreement (indicating that Kroll will continue to be paid, notwithstanding conversion of the cases to cases under chapter 7) shall be of no force or effect with respect to the services provided by Kroll pursuant to the order.

12. Notwithstanding anything in the Application or any supporting declarations to the contrary, Kroll shall seek reimbursement from the Debtors' estates for its engagement-related expenses at the firm's actual costs paid.

13. Notwithstanding anything in the Application or the supporting declarations to the contrary, Kroll shall, to the extent that Kroll uses the services of independent contractors, subcontractors, or employees of foreign affiliates or subsidiaries (collectively, the "Contractors") in these cases, pass through the cost of such Contractors to the Debtors at the same rate that Kroll pays the Contractors; (ii) seek reimbursement for actual costs only; (iii) ensure that the Contractors are subject to the same conflicts checks as required for Kroll; (iv) file with this Court disclosures

(Page 7)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE PETITION DATE

pertaining to such use required by Bankruptcy Rule 2014; and attach any such Contractors invoices to its monthly fee statements, interim fee applications and/or final fee applications filed in these cases.

14. Kroll shall not seek reimbursement of any fees or costs arising from the defense of its fee applications in the above-captioned cases.

15. Upon entry of a Final Order on the Motion to Redact all Personally Identifiable Information (Dkt. 4), Kroll will disclose the information that the Court orders to be unredacted, if any, through a supplemental declaration. Further, if the Court denies the Motion to Seal Confidential Transaction Parties on the Retention Applications (Dkt. 127), Kroll will, through a supplemental declaration, disclose the identities of all counterparties that were filed under seal, and the connections of Kroll to such potential counterparties.

16. In the event of any inconsistency between the Engagement Agreement, the Application, and the Order, the Order shall govern.

17. Notwithstanding any provision in the Bankruptcy Rules to the contrary, this Order shall be immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

18. The Debtors and Kroll are authorized to take all actions necessary to effectuate the relief granted pursuant to this Order in accordance with the Application.

19. Notice of the Application as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient notice of the Application and the Local Rules of this Court are satisfied by such notice.

(Page 8)

Debtor: BLOCKFI INC., et al.

Case No: 22-19361 (MBK)

Caption of Order: ORDER AUTHORIZING THE DEBTORS' EMPLOYMENT AND
RETENTION OF KROLL RESTRUCTURING ADMINISTRATION
LLC AS ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISOR *NUNC PRO TUNC* TO THE
PETITION DATE

20. To the extent applicable, the requirement set forth in Local Rule 9013-1(a)(3) that any motion/application be accompanied by a memorandum of law is hereby deemed satisfied by the contents of the Application or otherwise waived.

21. Notwithstanding any term in the Engagement Agreement to the contrary, the Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters arising from or related to the implementation, interpretation, and/or enforcement of this Order.